DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 443 334 HE 033 090

TITLE	Making Connections: 1999 Annual Report.
INSTITUTION	Southern Regional Education Board, Atlanta, GA.
SPONS AGENCY	Department of Education, Washington, DC.; Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, DC.; BellSouth Foundation, Inc. Atlanta, GA.; Mott (C.S.) Foundation, Flint, MI.; DeWitt Wallace/Reader's Digest Fund, Pleasantville, NY.; Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, New York, NY.; Ford Foundation, New York, NY.; Pew Charitable Trusts, Philadelphia, PA.; Southeastern Regional Vision for Education (SERVE), Tallahassee, FL.; Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, MI.; National Institutes of Health (DHHS), Bethesda, MD.
PUB DATE	1999-00-00
NOTE	26p.; Funding also provided by AT&T; BellSouth, Helene Fuld Health Trust; HSBL Bank USA, Trustee; Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation; Lamar Plunkett family; Novartis U.S. Foundation; and Partnership for America's Future.
AVAILABLE FROM	Southern Regional Education Board, 592 10th Street, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30318-5790; Tel: 404-875-9211; Web site: http://www.sreb.org.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Child Health; *Computer Uses in Education; Curriculum Development; Distance Education; Doctoral Programs; Educational Improvement; *Educational Technology; Graduate Study; *Higher Education; Literacy Education; Middle Schools; Nursing Education; Reading Instruction; School Nurses; Secondary Education
IDENTIFIERS	*Southern Regional Education Board

ABSTRACT

This 1999 annual report of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) is introduced by letters from its chairman and its president. The report then goes on to provide brief descriptions of various initiatives undertaken by the Board: the Electronic Campus program; the Doctoral Scholars program; Educational Benchmarks 2000, a report on member states' progress in meeting goals set out in 1998; the Middle Grades Education Initiative; the Shared Resources in Education program; the Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing; the Educational Technology Cooperative; a program to promote child health and literacy; the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education; the role of the SREB State Services office; and the High Schools That Work school reform initiative. Appended to the report are lists of SREB Board members, SREB advisory groups, and SREB staff. (SM)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 443 334

H

1999 Annual Report

SREB Making Connections

Southern Regional Education Board

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

HE 030 060

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chairman Cecil Underwood	2
President Mark Musick	4
Electronic Campus	6
Doctoral Scholars Program	7
Educational Benchmarks	8
Middle Grades Education Initiative	9
Shared resources in higher education	10
Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing	11
Educational Technology Cooperative	12
Healthy children learning to read	13
SREB Fact Book on Higher Education	14
State Services	15
High Schools That Work	16
Members of the board	18
SREB advisory groups	20
SREB staff	22

The Southern Regional Education Board is the nation's first interstate compact for education. Created in 1948 by Southern states, SREB helps government and education leaders work cooperatively to advance education and, in doing so, to improve the social and economic life of the region. SREB stresses the inseparable link between colleges and schools as states work to improve educational quality and opportunity.

SREB's 16 member states are Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

SREB is governed by a board consisting of the governor of each member state and four other individuals from each state, at least one of whom must be a state legislator and at least one an educator. All appointments are made by the governors for four-year staggered terms.

SREB is supported by appropriations from its member states and by funds from private companies, foundations, and state and local agencies.

SREB gratefully acknowledges support from these sources:

Appalachian Regional Commission; AT&T; BellSouth; BellSouth Foundation; Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund; Edna McConnell Clark Foundation; Ford Foundation; Helene Fuld Health Trust, HSBL Bank USA, Trustee; Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation; Lamar Plunkett family; National Institute of Health; Novartis U.S. Foundation; Partnership for America's Future; Pew Charitable Trusts; SouthEastern Regional Vision for Education; U.S. Department of Education; and W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Chairman Cecil Underwood

The *Electronic Campus* exhibit in Tyler County, W.Va., attracted (left to right) West Virginia Governor Cecil Underwood, West Virginia Secretary of Education and the Arts David Ice, and SREB president Mark Musick.

I recently returned to the small Tyler County community where I grew up to dedicate the restoration of the one-room schoolhouse where I attended grade school. The event provided a unique opportunity to celebrate the history of education in rural West Virginia while demonstrating how technology is changing the future of education for our citizens.

The trip reminded me that you don't have to come from a big school to be governor and brought back a lot of my early education memories, including my duties as a janitor at the school. I remember the day I built a fire in the potbellied stove that almost destroyed the school.

In addition to the dedication of the Ross Run School, which I attended from sixth to eighth grade, the commemoration included a special display of the Southern Regional Education Board's *Electronic Campus*. The SREB demonstration, "From a one-room school to the *Electronic Campus*," electronically connected those gathered at Ross Run School with nearly 200 colleges and universities. The *Electronic Campus* provides a modern-day one-room school of a different sort. You can go to school in any room with a phone line and a computer and can learn through college-level courses.

We felt fortunate in the one-room school I attended to have one teacher. Now, through the *Electronic Campus*, anyone with a computer can connect with many of the best professors in the 16-state SREB region.

The *Electronic Campus* has connected working adults in rural areas with opportunities to improve and gain job skills. Mothers and fathers who would find it almost impossible to attend classes on a university campus now can connect to a wide variety of courses.

In less than 18 months, this electronic marketplace of distance learning courses has expanded from 104 courses to more than 2,000 courses and 75 degree programs. More than 20,000 students are enrolled in courses that are offered through the *Electronic Campus* at its Web site, www.srec.sreb.org.

The success of the *Electronic Campus* depends largely on the connections of the Southern Regional Education Board that link the compact to state leaders and connections that link the *Electronic Campus* to agencies and to the hundreds of colleges and universities in the region.

Governor Cecil Underwood, who is putting computers in every seventh- through 12th-grade classroom and connecting each West Virginia school to the Internet, was re-elected in 1996. He was elected as West Virginia's youngest governor at age 34 in 1956. Governor Underwood is chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

These connections have created a successful electronic marketplace of courses, allowing people in rural areas — such as Tyler County — to make connections that literally can change their lives. The *Electronic Campus* is a free trade zone that is student-friendly, provides greater access to higher education than previously imagined and removes barriers that long have hindered higher education. It provides a winning situation for states, colleges and universities, employers looking for better-trained employees, and, most importantly, the students who benefit from these connections. It allows higher education to reach more and teach more students than ever before.

Sixty years ago, President Franklin Roosevelt commissioned a startling report on the South that, unfortunately, was right on the money. That report by the National Emergency Council called the South "the nation's No. 1 economic problem." I was attending the one-room school when President Roosevelt's report was issued, and I remember well how tough times were.

Beyond issuing that dire warning, the president also challenged Southerners to overcome the problems that were dragging them down and predicted in 1938 that we would succeed. In 1949, the Southern Regional Education Board was created to help us tackle some of the educational problems that were bigger than any one state could solve. I was a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates and voted for the SREB interstate compact, which made West Virginia a charter member.

SREB is about making connections — connecting leaders, organizations, good ideas, expertise and experience in one state in practical, tangible ways with 15 other states. The *Electronic Campus* is certainly one of the most far-reaching connections made in the half-century of work by SREB.

I enjoyed the special connection in Tyler County to an important educational symbol of my childhood. The memories were poignant. So was the underlying message as I watched the computer screen installed in the one-room school I attended years ago. With a few electronic clicks, my rural home county was connected with 200 colleges and universities ready to bring a new world of opportunities to that one-room school.

"We felt fortunate in the one-room school I attended to have one teacher. Now, through the Electronic Campus, *anyone with a computer can connect with many of the best professors in the 16-state SREB region."*

— Cecil Underwood

President Mark Musick

Mr. Mark Musick is president of the Southern Regional Education Board, an organization he has served for more than 20 years. He came to SREB from Virginia, where he served in the governor's office and with the Virginia Community College System and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Mr. Musick holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University.

Connecting with the *Southern Regional Electronic Campus* from a one-room school — a one-room school in Tyler County, W.Va., once attended by West Virginia Governor Cecil Underwood. Governor Underwood describes this SREB connection in his chairman's statement in this report.

The *Electronic Campus* is one of many connections that SREB has made possible for more than a half-century. Many of those links are obvious. SREB connects legislators in one state to policy-makers in 15 other states and connects the policies that link schools and colleges. The quality "link" between schools and colleges is fundamental: The colleges cannot be significantly better than the schools that produce their students, and the schools cannot be decidedly better than the colleges that produce their teachers and administrators.

Some of the connections are less obvious — but just as important — such as responding to inquiries from governors' staff members, policy-makers and education reporters from across the country.

SREB is committed to making connections. Daily telephone, fax and e-mail connections are made between SREB staff and policy-makers and between staff and school and campus leaders seeking information and advice. That information — usable, comparative and analytical information — is shared with policy-makers and decision-makers who need and depend on it.

Those connections are reflected in the 75 publications produced annually by SREB. These include four reports connecting the needs of the region's middle grades as well as the new *SREB Fact Book on Higher Education*, the latest in a series that has connected the progress in higher education for more than 40 years.

These connections help SREB states accomplish goals that no single state could achieve alone. The *Electronic Campus* connects the distance learning efforts of 200 colleges and universities in the region and links them to people in 16 states and throughout the world.

Every day SREB works to connect efforts to improve education and reach goals that move states forward. The aim is to establish connections to national benchmarks whenever possible in areas such as graduation requirements, reading, teacher preparation, student achievement, and high school end-of-course exams.

Leaders in business, government and education regularly look to SREB for connections. They have found them in many ways, including:

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

- The 48th annual Legislative Work Conference will be held in 1999. These meetings are connected with regular *Legislative Reports* (and an annual *Legislative Briefing*); the annual legislative and executive staff meeting; and regular visits to legislatures and legislative committees.
- SREB's Educational Technology Cooperative has connected all 38 departments of education and coordinating and governing boards of higher education from SREB states. The cooperative hosts an annual meeting that connects the work of six task forces, and it coordinates *EvaluTech*, which connects educators with free, up-to-date evaluations of educational software and other materials for prekindergarten through 12th grade.
- The SREB-State Data Exchange has connected policy-makers with education data from SREB states for almost 40 years. The online information is regarded as the nation's premier source of data concerning higher education in the SREB region.
- *High Schools That Work* connects 900 high schools in 22 states and is recognized as the nation's largest and fastest-growing effort to increase the academic standards for career-bound students. *HSTW* provides technical assistance to participating schools and will host more than 5,000 people at its 1999 Staff Development Conference in Atlanta.
- Three programs have connected more than 30,000 students with opportunities. The Academic Common Market allows a student to attend an undergraduate or graduate program in another state without having to pay out-of-state tuition if the college or university offers a program of study not offered in his or her home state. The Regional Contract Program allows states to contract for space in health-profession programs that are not available in their colleges and universities, and the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program has connected and supported 224 minority scholars in Ph.D. programs in the region since 1993.

The Southern Regional Education Board's representatives are proud of the connections made over the last 51 years that have contributed to the progress made in this region.

"Every day SREB works to connect efforts to improve education and to reach goals that move states forward."

— Mark Musick

Electronic Campus

Adults of all ages in SREB states — and people all over the world — can study at some of the best colleges and universities in the South and never leave home. The Southern Regional Education Board's *Electronic Campus* makes this — and a lot more — possible.

In less than two years, the *Electronic Campus* has grown from 104 courses to 2,000 courses and 75 degree-granting programs. Almost 200 colleges and universities in the 16-state SREB region have included courses in the nation's most successful marketplace of distance learning courses.

Almost 20,000 students are enrolled in courses that are offered on the *Electronic Campus*. These students can choose to take accredited courses at their convenience — in the comfort of their homes or offices or even while they are traveling.

"We think that working adults, the so-called 'nontraditional students,' may benefit most from the *Electronic Campus*. But who is to say that high school seniors won't be taking college courses via the *Electronic Campus* or that students at community or four-year colleges won't be taking several of their courses electronically as a common practice?" said Bruce Chaloux, director of the *Electronic Campus*.

"The Internet is dramatically changing the way we live. ... It just makes sense that higher education will use the Internet effectively. Distance learning courses are winners for colleges and universities, for states and, most importantly, for students."

— Bruce Chaloux

Bruce Chaloux, Director, *Electronic Campus*, bruce.chaloux@sreb.org
Mary Larson, Coordinator of Program Services, mary.larson@sreb.org

Publications:

- ✔ *Southern Regional Electronic Campus* information packet
- ✔ *Principles of Good Practice*
- ✔ *Survey Report of SREB State Regulations*
- ✔ *Distance Learning*

Doctoral Scholars Program

The SREB Doctoral Scholars Program is a classic case of what cooperation among member states in the region can accomplish. Since its first class of 13 minority Ph.D. students enrolled in 1993:

- 224 scholars have entered the program;
- 30 scholars have completed their Ph.D.s; and
- 21 of the 30 students who have earned their Ph.D.s have begun careers as faculty at institutions in SREB states, most of them in positions that lead to tenure.

The Doctoral Scholars Program aims to create a state-based, self-sustaining program that will help minority students who are admitted by universities into Ph.D. programs to earn Ph.D.s and become college faculty members.

The SREB Doctoral Scholars Program works. After six years of operation, the program has maintained a 95 percent retention rate, and about 70 percent of the program graduates have begun academic careers, most of them in tenured track positions.

"The SREB strategy in the Doctoral Scholars Program is to combine academic assistance with direct services to students and a philosophy of 'we know you can succeed, and we will help you succeed.'"

— Ansley Abraham

Ansley Abraham, Director, Doctoral Scholars Program, ansley.abraham@sreb.org
Debra Garmon, Coordinator of Student Services, debra.garmon@sreb.org

Publication:

✔ *Diversity in College Faculty: SREB States Address a Need*

Educational Benchmarks

Information is being gathered for *Educational Benchmarks 2000*, the sixth biennial report on SREB states' progress in meeting a set of goals spelled out in 1988.

Goals for Education was published to help SREB states raise educational standards at all levels by the turn of the century. *Educational Benchmarks 1998* reported several positive steps but noted that "with the good news is the reality that efforts to improve education have not resulted in the dramatic improvements that many leaders expected."

Areas of primary concern are:

- Too few students are proficient in reading and mathematics.
- Too many adults have not earned a high school diploma.
- Large numbers of college freshmen must take remedial courses.
- Average teacher salaries remain below the national average.
- Teacher training has not kept pace with higher expectations for students.

"We will not accomplish these goals without maintaining the needed investment in education. We urge state leaders to balance persistence and patience. The condition of education is better than a decade ago, and with hard work and innovation it will be better a decade from now."

— Joseph Creech

Joseph D. Creech, Director, Educational Policies, joe.creech@sreb.org

Publications:

- ✔ *Increasing the Percentage of Adults with a High School Diploma: The Challenge for SREB States*
- ✔ *Educational Benchmarks 1998*
- ✔ *State-funded Merit-based Scholarship Programs: Why Are They Popular?*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Middle Grades Education Initiative

The fourth in a series of reports on lagging achievement in the middle grades presents a framework of policies and actions designed to improve the achievement of eighth-graders in SREB states.

The problem is dramatic: More than half of the eighth-graders in SREB states are below the basic level in mathematics as defined by the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Fewer than 20 percent meet the NAEP "proficient" standard, and too many students enter high school unprepared for the tougher graduation requirements that many states have enacted.

SREB states should set clear goals that include:

- The percentages of students leaving the middle grades who perform at the basic and proficient levels in reading, mathematics and science as defined by the National Assessment of Educational Progress will increase significantly.
- States should review content standards in grades five through eight to ensure that they spell out the essential content knowledge and skills that are to be achieved at each grade level.
- States should provide useful examples and a framework for core curricula that will be challenging and will meet standards for content and student performance.

"The condition of the middle grades — lagging achievement; a lack of focus; an absence of clear, measurable statements of what is to be taught and learned; a scarcity of resources compared with support for other grades — demonstrates the lack of focus and commitment in middle grades education."

— Sondra Cooney

Sondra Cooney, Director, Middle Grades Education Initiative, sondra.cooney@sreb.org

Publications:

- ✔ *Leading the Way: State Actions to Improve Student Achievement in the Middle Grades*
- ✔ *Improving Teaching in the Middle Grades: Higher Standards for Students Aren't Enough*
- ✔ *Raising the Bar in the Middle Grades: Readiness for Success*
- ✔ *Education's Weak Link: Student Performance in the Middle Grades*

SHARED RESOURCES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Nearly 25,000 students will have attended undergraduate or graduate programs in other states through the Academic Common Market by the end of this year.

The program, which began in 1974, provides an affordable alternative for students in SREB states who do not have access to particular collegiate programs at in-state public colleges and universities. Through the Academic Common Market, these students can enroll in programs in other SREB states without paying out-of-state tuition. Students are not the only ones who benefit from this arrangement, however. States do not have to provide costly programs, and colleges and universities gain quality students for open spaces.

A similar program, the Regional Contract Program, has served thousands of students since it began in 1949. If a state's colleges and universities do not offer certain health-profession programs, that state can reserve spaces for its students in an institution's program in another state. The Regional Contract Program focuses on the fields of dentistry, medicine, osteopathic medicine, optometry, podiatry and veterinary medicine.

The Faculty Research Grant Program has awarded more than 1,300 grants since its inception in 1974. The grants go to faculty members who are doing research outside their home institution that will benefit them and their students. The grants allow faculty to use research facilities and are funded by the states and brokered by SREB.

"One of the reasons that the Southern Regional Education Board was founded was to allow students to take advantage of educational opportunities in other states. The Regional Contract Program and the Academic Common Market help meet the goals of our founders."

— Ann Creech

Ann Creech, Staff Associate, Regional Contract Programs, ann.creech@sreb.org

Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing

The Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing — a part of SREB's history for half a century — is working to develop curriculum guidelines to help nurse educators prepare for entry-level positions as school nurses.

The collaboration will help ensure that professional nurses are prepared adequately for entry-level positions as school nurses. The project reflects three underlying assumptions about the role of professional nurses in school settings:

- They can eliminate or minimize health problems that impair learning.
- They can help students develop the ability to function independently.
- By reducing health-related absenteeism, they can maximize class time.

The council's primary purpose is to provide a forum for nurse educators in all levels of college-based nursing programs to address issues and concerns related to nursing education and practice.

"We were delighted to see 23 Kellogg Fellows complete the postdoctoral program of study in family nurse practitioner programs in three settings this year: East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., the University of Tennessee at Memphis and the University of Texas Medical Branch (Galveston)."

— Eula Aiken

Eula Aiken, Executive Director, Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing, eula.aiken@sreb.org

Publications:

- ✔ *Graduate Nursing Education in the South: Preparing Graduates to Meet the Needs of Diverse Populations*
- ✔ *Getting Involved in Children's Health: The University of Texas – Houston School of Nursing Example*
- ✔ *Preparing the Work Force for the 21st Century: The Nurse Educator's Challenge*
- ✔ *A 50-Year Legacy*
- ✔ *Directory of Kellogg Fellows*

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY COOPERATIVE

SREB's Educational Technology Cooperative consists of all 38 coordinating and governing boards of higher education and departments of education in 16 SREB states.

The Cooperative this year is coordinating the development of a Web-based algebra course for use by teachers across the SREB region.

The goal of the project, which is funded by an AT&T Foundation grant, is to create a model that educators can use to develop quality Web-based courses. The algebra course will help teachers improve their knowledge and understanding of mathematics. It will be implemented by May 2000.

The Cooperative also coordinates *EvaluTech*, which offers to every school and to every teacher up-to-date evaluations of educational software and other materials for prekindergarten through 12th grade. These comprehensive and free reviews are on the Web at www.evalutech.sreb.org. They are provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

"Algebra is a so-called 'gatekeeper course' because it is required increasingly for high school graduation and college admission. The Web-based algebra course will help teachers use new concepts and technology to help more students get through the 'algebra gate' and succeed in high school, college and the workplace."

— William Thomas

William R. Thomas, Director, Educational Technology, bthomas@sreb.org
J.B. Mathews, Senior Technology Policy Adviser, jbmathews@sreb.org

Publications:

- ✔ *Educational Technology Cooperative*
- ✔ *EvaluTech* brochure
- ✔ *Technology Standards for Teachers*
- ✔ *Year 2000 Computer Glitch*
- ✔ *Statewide Educational Networking: Trends and Issues Highlighted*
- ✔ *Guidelines for Buying New Technology Equipment*

HEALTHY CHILDREN LEARNING TO READ

Teaching children to read may be the most important area in which education must be held accountable. SREB's Health and Human Services Programs have several initiatives related to reading, with an emphasis on early reading instruction and the need for all children to read on grade level by the end of the third grade.

These efforts include reporting on states' reading initiatives, summarizing legislative actions, analyzing emerging research, and identifying best practices in teacher training. SREB will strive to keep the focus on improving reading results and on finding out "what works" in teaching students to read. Planned reports will look at various aspects of statewide reading initiatives in the region, beginning with a report on state assessments of students' reading needs in kindergarten and first grade.

The SREB Health and Human Services Programs also deal with child and school health issues, including monitoring of efforts to expand health insurance for children. The programs identify the factors that influence children's readiness for school and emphasize the importance of ensuring that schools are ready for all children.

"The 16-state Southern Regional Education Board region is a 'clear leader' in providing prekindergarten programs. Six SREB states rank among the nation's top 10 in the number of children served by state-supported prekindergarten programs. Programs designed to improve children's readiness for school are becoming the norm in the SREB region."

— David Denton

David Denton, Director, Health and Human Services, david.denton@sreb.org

Publications:

- ✔ *Prekindergarten and Parent Support Programs*
- ✔ *North Carolina Strives for Balanced Reading Instruction*
- ✔ *Reaching Uninsured Children*
- ✔ *Caregivers for an Aging Society: An Update on Gerontology Education*

SREB Fact Book on Higher Education

The remarkable growth and progress made in the South over the last half-century have been chronicled for most of those years by the *SREB Fact Book on Higher Education.*

Findings in the most recent *Fact Book* include:

- Growth in the SREB region will continue to outpace the national growth rate well into the next century. About 1 million more people each year will live in the SREB states.
- More than 9.4 million new jobs — half of the new jobs in America — were created in the SREB region during the last decade.
- The percentage of college graduates in the region's population today is higher than the percentage of high school graduates in the region's population in 1940, and the progress continues.
- The funding of higher education has improved, but colleges and universities still suffer from financial strain. Students continue to carry a greater portion of the costs of college education.

Policy-makers and researchers may download databases from the SREB-State Data Exchange and the *Fact Book* at the SREB Web site, www.sreb.org.

"We take pride in charting the SREB region's progress through the Fact Book on Higher Education. *It is more than just charts and tables ... We try to see what the facts add up to, to see where the region is and where it is going, primarily through improvements in education at all levels."*

— Joseph L. Marks

Joseph L. Marks, Director, Data Services, joe.marks@sreb.org

Publications:

- ✔ *SREB Fact Book on Higher Education 1998/1999*
- ✔ *Education and Progress in the South: 1938 to 1998*

State Services

State Services staff often serve as SREB's initial link to executive and legislative officials and staff in the 16 SREB states. They respond to questions relating to education and regularly make presentations on subjects such as accountability and state education trends.

State Services staff work closely with the SREB Legislative Advisory Council, which comprises state senators, representatives and delegates from all 16 SREB states. The 48th annual Legislative Work Conference will be held this fall in Florida. The 11th consecutive legislative and executive staff meeting is planned for the fall in Atlanta.

SREB is known for its commitment to helping policy-makers accurately analyze trends and issues. Thorough examinations of governors' legislative and budget proposals and final legislative actions are shared with policy-makers in SREB states.

Accountability is a focal point for State Services. The progress made in accountability over the last decade has been noted. SREB has found that, despite the improvements, many SREB states lack a comprehensive approach that adequately addresses needs, including standards, assessment and professional development for teachers.

"Accountability is not a new concept in education, but the definition has changed. Today the focus of accountability is on student learning."

— Jim Watts

Jim Watts, Vice President for State Services, jim.watts@sreb.org
Gale F. Gaines, Director, Legislative Services, gale.gaines@sreb.org

Publications:

- ✔ *Legislative Reports* when legislatures are in session
- ✔ *Legislative Briefing*, a topical summary of legislative session outcomes
- ✔ *Getting Results: A Fresh Look at Accountability*
- ✔ *Focus* reports on emerging issues

High Schools That Work

High Schools That Work was saluted this year as a national school-reform initiative that helps raise student performance. The recognition capped a decade of working with states, districts and schools to improve education in high schools.

High Schools That Work provides a framework of goals and key practices to help 22 states and more than 900 schools set higher standards and improve student learning. The four basic *HSTW* services are:

- technical assistance to help schools develop and implement improvement plans;
- national and site-specific staff development, networking opportunities and access to pace-setting schools;
- communications and publications that share research findings and best practices; and
- assessments to help schools analyze their efforts, make decisions about school and classroom practices, and examine their progress.

The focus of *High Schools That Work* is on those students who in the past were not challenged to meet high academic standards in either academic or vocational curricula.

The initiative is based on a framework of key practices and key conditions that advocate accelerated learning and higher standards for all students; rigorous coursework; and the counseling, support and extra help students need to complete a challenging curriculum.

"We have a goal of taking HSTW *into an expanded number of schools to improve student learning over the next four years. We will work more closely with states to strengthen policies and to help more schools become 'winners' in advancing student learning."*

— Gene Bottoms

Publications:

- ✔ *Research Briefs*
- ✔ *1998 Outstanding Practices*

Schools in the program implement key practices for changing what is expected of students, what they are taught and how they are taught.

High Schools That Work this year entered a new phase of work. The goal for the next four years is to take *HSTW* into an expanded number of schools to improve student learning. In this new emphasis, *HSTW* will work closely with states to strengthen policies and to help more schools become "winners" in advancing student learning. In addition, a network of urban school districts is being created; each district will include three or more *HSTW* sites.

Gene Bottoms, Senior Vice President, gene.bottoms@sreb.org
Tricia Avery, Director, Summer Staff Development Conference, tricia.avery@sreb.org
Ray Bouchillon, Technical Assistance Facilitator, ray.bouchillon@sreb.org
James Clark, Director, Work-Based Learning, james.clark@sreb.org
Mary Cobbs, Director, Staff Development Services, mary.cobbs@sreb.org
Caro Feagin, Director, Field Services, caro.feagin@sreb.org
Tom Feagin, Technical Assistance Facilitator, tom.feagin@sreb.org
Joanna Fox, Director, Urban Network Initiative, joanna.fox@sreb.org
Mary Johnson, Director, Communications and Publications, mary.johnson@sreb.org
Richard Makin, Senior Director for Planning and Management, richard.makin@sreb.org
Margaret Manos, Director, Atlanta *High Schools That Work* Initiative, margaret.manos@sreb.org
Ione Phillips, Manager, U.S. Department of Education, New American High School Project, ione.phillips@sreb.org
Alice Presson, Director, Research and Evaluation, alice.presson@sreb.org
Beth Smith, Coordinator, *HSTW* Contract Services, beth.smith@sreb.org
John Varner, Director, Employer Partnership, john.varner@sreb.org

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Governor Cecil H. Underwood, *Chair*
Superintendent Ed Richardson, *Vice Chair*
Senator John H. Chichester, *Treasurer*

Alabama

	Term Expires
Don Siegelman, *Governor*	2003
Stephen A. McMillan, *State Representative*	1998
† * Ed Richardson, *Superintendent of Education,* Alabama Department of Education	2000
Charlie D. Waldrep, Gorham & Waldrep, P.C.	1997
(Vacancy)	1999

Arkansas

† Mike Huckabee, *Governor*	2003
JoNell Caldwell, Bryant	2001
† * Lawrence A. Davis Jr., *Chancellor,* University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	1999
Steve Franks, *Director,* Arkansas Department of Workforce Education	2002
Jodie Mahony, *State Senator*	2000

Delaware

Thomas R. Carper, *Governor*	2001
Mary B. Graham, *Chair,* Delaware Higher Education Commission	1999
Patrick E. Savini, *Director of Support Services,* Sussex County Vo-Tech School District	2000
† David P. Sokola, *State Senator*	2002
Valerie A. Woodruff, *Associate Secretary,* Curriculum and Instruction Implementation Branch, Delaware Department of Public Instruction	2001

Florida

Jeb Bush, *Governor*	2003
† Betty Castor, *President,* University of South Florida	2001
H. Clyde Hobby, *Member,* Florida Postsecondary Education Planning Commission	2000
Betty S. Holzendorf, *State Senator*	2002
Steven J. Uhlfelder, *Member,* State University System of Florida	1999

Georgia

	Term Expires
Roy E. Barnes, *Governor*	2003
Michael F. Adams, *President,* University of Georgia	1999
† * Paul C. Broun, *State Senator*	2000
Henry M. Huckaby, *Director,* Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia	2002
Stephen R. Portch, *Chancellor,* State University System of Georgia	2001

Kentucky

† Paul E. Patton, *Governor*	1999
Gordon K. Davies, *President,* Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education	2001
Edward S. Ford, *Deputy Secretary,* Governor's Cabinet	2002
David K. Karem, *State Senator*	1999
Charles T. Wethington Jr., *President,* University of Kentucky	2000

Louisiana

Mike Foster, *Governor*	2000
Sally Clausen, *President,* Southeastern Louisiana University	2002
† Jimmy D. Long, *State Representative*	2001
Cecil J. Picard, *Superintendent of Education,* Louisiana Department of Education	1999
E. Joseph Savoie, *Commissioner of Higher Education,* Louisiana Board of Regents	2000

Maryland

Parris N. Glendening, *Governor*	2003
† Arthur Dorman, *State Senator*	2002
† Patricia S. Florestano, *Secretary of Higher Education,* Maryland Higher Education Commission	2001
Nancy K. Kopp, *State Delegate*	1999
Donald N. Langenberg, *Chancellor,* University of Maryland System	2000

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mississippi

	Term Expires
Kirk Fordice, *Governor*	2000
† Kenny R. Bush, *Member,* Mississippi State Board of Education	1999
† Charles W. Capps Jr., *State Representative*	2000
Howell W. Todd, *President,* Mississippi College	2002
Dot Ward, Madison	2001

North Carolina

James B. Hunt Jr., *Governor*	2001
Stanley H. Fox, *State Representative*	2001
† Henry L. Johnson, *Associate State Superintendent,* North Carolina Department of Public Instruction	2002
Howard N. Lee, *State Senator*	1999
Leslie J. Winner, *Member,* Charlotte-Mecklenberg Board of Education	2000

Oklahoma

Frank Keating, *Governor*	2003
† John Bryant, *State Representative*	2000
Floyd L. Coppedge, *Secretary of Education*	1999
Joan Greenwood, *State Representative*	1998
Rhonda L. Harryman, *University Supervisor,* Special Education, College of Education, University of Central Oklahoma	2001

South Carolina

James H. Hodges, *Governor*	2003
Russell S. Bedenbaugh, Columbia	2002
Ronald R. Ingle, *President,* Coastal Carolina University	2000
Nikki G. Setzler, *State Senator*	2001
† Ronald P. Townsend, *State Representative*	1999

Tennessee

Don Sundquist, *Governor*	2003
Peaches G. Simpkins, Nashville	1999
Paul E. Stanton Jr., *President,* East Tennessee State University	2001
† Jane Walters, *Commissioner,* Tennessee State Department of Education	2000
Andy Womack, *State Senator*	2002

Texas

George W. Bush, *Governor*	2003
Teel Bivins, *State Senator*	2001
Kent Grusendorf, *State Representative*	2000
Roderick R. Paige, *Superintendent of Schools,* Houston Independent School District	2002
† Carol J. Spencer, *President,* Cedar Valley College	1999

Virginia

James S. Gilmore III, *Governor*	2002
† * John H. Chichester, *State Senator*	2002
Demaris H. Miller, McLean	2001
Thomas R. Morris, *President,* Emory and Henry College	1999
Robert W. Sweet Jr., *President,* The National Right to Read Foundation	2000

West Virginia

† Cecil H. Underwood, *Governor*	2001
† * Lloyd G. Jackson II, *State Senator*	2000
James J. MacCallum, *President,* West Virginia Board of Education	2001
Jerry L. Mezzatesta, *State Delegate*	1998
Roman W. Prezioso Jr., *State Senator*	1999

† *Executive Committee member* — The Executive Committee has full power to act between Board meetings. It is composed of one board member from each state and several from the region at large.

* *Finance Committee member* — The Finance Committee, a subcommittee of the Executive Committee, prepares an annual budget and presents it and other financial policy matters to the Executive Committee.

SREB ADVISORY GROUPS

Legislative Advisory Council

Francis C. Thompson, *Chair*
Andy Womack, *Vice Chair*

Joe Barrows, *State Representative*
Versailles, Kentucky

Teel Bivins, *State Senator*
Amarillo, Texas

Paul C. Broun, *State Senator*
Athens, Georgia

John Bryant, *State Representative*
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Charles W. Capps Jr., *State Representative*
Cleveland, Mississippi

John H. Chichester, *State Senator*
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Betsy L. Cochrane, *State Senator*
Advance, North Carolina

M. Olin Cook, *State Representative*
Russellville, Arkansas

Eugene E. Davidson, *State Representative*
Springfield, Tennessee

Alan A. Diamonstein, *State Delegate*
Newport News, Virginia

Larry D. Dixon, *State Senator*
Montgomery, Alabama

Arthur Dorman, *State Senator*
Beltsville, Maryland

Joe M. Ford, *State Representative*
Gadsden, Alabama

Stanley H. Fox, *State Representative*
Oxford, North Carolina

Joan Greenwood, *State Representative*
Moore, Oklahoma

Kent Grusendorf, *State Representative*
Arlington, Texas

Billy Hewes III, *State Senator*
Gulfport, Mississippi

Jack Hill, *State Senator*
Reidsville, Georgia

Betty S. Holzendorf, *State Senator*
Jacksonville, Florida

Lloyd G. Jackson II, *State Senator*
Hamlin, West Virginia

David K. Karem, *State Senator*
Louisville, Kentucky

Nancy K. Kopp, *State Delegate*
Bethesda, Maryland

Howard N. Lee, *State Senator*
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Jimmy D. Long, *State Representative*
Natchitoches, Louisiana

Jim Magnus, *State Representative*
Little Rock, Arkansas

Jodie Mahony, *State Senator*
El Dorado, Arkansas

David R. Malone, *State Senator*
Fayetteville, Arkansas

John W. Matthews Jr., *State Senator*
Bowman, South Carolina

Stephen A. McMillan, *State Representative*
Bay Minette, Alabama

Jerry L. Mezzatesta, *State Delegate*
Romney, West Virginia

Sonny Perdue, *State Senator*
Bonaire, Georgia

Roman W. Prezioso Jr., *State Senator*
Fairmont, West Virginia

Jody Richards, *State Representative*
Bowling Green, Kentucky

R. Eugene Rogers, *State Representative*
Williamston, North Carolina

Stanley Russ, *State Senator*
Conway, Arkansas

Nikki G. Setzler, *State Senator*
West Columbia, South Carolina

Charlie Smith, *State Representative*
Eupora, Mississippi

Calvin Smyre, *State Representative*
Columbus, Georgia

David P. Sokola, *State Senator*
Newark, Delaware

Francis C. Thompson, *State Representative*
Delhi, Louisiana

Ronald P. Townsend, *State Representative*
Anderson, South Carolina

Stanley C. Walker, *State Senator*
Norfolk, Virginia

Debbie Wasserman Schultz, *State Representative*
Davie, Florida

Richard G. White, *State Senator*
Terry, Mississippi

Charlie Williams, *State Representative*
Senatobia, Mississippi

Penny Williams, *State Senator*
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Andy Womack, *State Senator*
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Health and Human Services Commission

Steve A. Freedman, *Chair*

Pat Bradley, *Policy Advisor for Education, Office of the Governor*, Wilmington, Delaware

Milly Cowles, *Dean Emerita, School of Education*, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Cindy Cupp, *Director of Curriculum and Reading*, Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta

Steve A. Freedman, *Director, Institute for Child Health Policy*, State University System of Florida, Gainesville

Robin Gilchrist, *Assistant Commissioner, Statewide Reading Initiatives*, Texas Education Agency, Austin

Cathy Grace, *Director, Family Resource Center*, Tupelo, Mississippi

Phyllis Horns, *Dean, School of Nursing*, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina

Robert McGinnis, *Legislative Liaison, Office of the Governor*, Marianna, Arkansas

Wade Mounts, Louisville, Kentucky

Martha Nagle, *Assistant Vice Chancellor*, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Oklahoma City

Jane Norwood, *Professor of Curriculum and Instruction*, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina

Linda O'Neal, *Executive Director*, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, Nashville

Renee Gill Pratt, *State Representative*, New Orleans, Louisiana

Robert W. Sweet Jr., *President*, The National Right to Read Foundation, The Plains, Virginia

Lenore Zedosky, *Director*, West Virginia Department of Education, Charleston

SREB STAFF

Mark Musick, *President*

Ansley A. Abraham, *Director,* Doctoral Scholars Program

Eula Aiken, *Nursing Programs Director and Executive Director of the Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing*

Galina Alexeenko, *Office Assistant,* Doctoral Scholars Program

Eric Anderson, *Information Technology Assistant*

Beth Andrews, *Assistant to the Senior Vice President, High Schools That Work*

Tricia Avery, *Director of Staff Development, High Schools That Work*

Barbara Bohanon, *Accounting Assistant*

Anjanette Bolich, *Research Assistant for Educational Policies*

Gene Bottoms, *Senior Vice President*

Ray Bouchillon, *Director of School Improvement Planning, High Schools That Work*

Dawn Bristo, *Research Assistant for Data Services*

Jennifer Burke, *Staff Associate,* Policy Clearinghouse for Educational Technology

Bracey Campbell, *Director,* Communications

Bruce Chaloux, *Director, Southern Regional Electronic Campus*

James F. Clark, *Director of Work-Based Learning, High Schools That Work*

Mary Cobbs, *Director of Special Projects, High Schools That Work*

Sondra Cooney, *Director,* Middle Grades Education Initiative

Lynn M. Cornett, *Senior Vice President*

Ann H. Creech, *Staff Associate for Contract Programs*

Betty Creech, *Research Writer, High Schools That Work*

Joseph D. Creech, *Director,* Educational Policies

David R. Dentson, *Director,* Health and Human Services Programs

Cato Feagin, *Director of Field Services, High Schools That Work*

Tom Feagin, *Site Facilitator, High Schools That Work*

Joanna Fox, *Director of Urban Network Initiative, High Schools That Work*

Gale F. Gaines, *Director of Legislative Services*

Debra Garmon, *Coordinator of Student Services,* Doctoral Scholars Program

Ruth Gentry, *Assistant to the Senior Vice President*

Tami Gissin, *Administrative Assistant,* Middle Grades Education Initiative

Kristina Gregg, *Administrative Assistant, Southern Regional Electronic Campus*

Lois Harris, *Conferences and Desktop Publishing, High Schools That Work*

Christine Hill, *Administrative Assistant,* Human Resources

Melanie Hill, *Administrative Assistant,* Educational Technology

Travis Holland, *Publications Assistant*

Linda Hollis, Assistant Office of the Vice President for State Services

Walter Jacobs, *Consultant,* Doctoral Scholars Program

Barbara James, *Accountant*

Jean Johnson, *Human Resources Associate*

Mary Johnson, *Director,* Communications and Publications, *High Schools That Work*

Suzannah Johnson, *Administrative Assistant, High Schools That Work*

Anna Johnston, *Switchboard Operator*

Leticia Jones, *Production Manager*

Lena Kutuzova, *Administrative Assistant,* Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing

J.J. Kwashnak, *Information Technology Administrator*

Mary Larson, *Coordinator of Program Services, Southern Regional Electronic Campus*

Richard Makin, *Senior Director for Planning and Management, High Schools That Work*

Margaret Manos, *Director, Atlanta High Schools That Work* Initiative

Joseph L. Marks, *Director,* Data Services

J.B. Mathews, *Senior Technology Policy Adviser*

Ann Paige, *Administrative Assistant, High Schools That Work*

Ione Phillips, *Manager,* U.S. Department of Education New American High School Project, *High Schools That Work*

Alice E. Presson, *Director,* Research and Evaluation, *High Schools That Work*

Amy L. Schneider, *Publications and Web Page Editor*

Beth Smith, *Coordinator of Contract Services, High Schools That Work*

Susan Smith, *Office Services Coordinator*

Angela Spruill, *Administrative Assistant, High Schools That Work*

Russell Steel, *Director of Finance and Facilities*

Robert E. Stoltz, *Senior Policy Adviser*

Johnny Swain, *Office Clerk*

Joyce Tallman, *Assistant to the President*

William R. Thomas, *Director,* Educational Technology

Renita Varnado, *Administrative Assistant, High Schools That Work*

John Varner, *Director of Employer Partnerships, High Schools That Work*

James Watts, *Vice President for State Services*

Jim White, *Information Technology Assistant*

Each year, the Southern Regional Education Board is audited by an independent auditor in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards issued by the comptroller general of the United States. The audit report is mailed to board members and made available to others.

If you would like a copy of the audit report completed on Aug. 21, 1998, by Deloitte & Touche LLP, please write or call for a copy. Send your request to:

Russell Steel
Director of Finance and Facilities
Southern Regional Education Board
592 10th St. N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30318-5790

Or call (404) 875-9211, Ext. 257.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE